

SCSU Office of International Education  
Faculty-Led Program Abroad Application

# BELIZE

July 1 – July 10, 2025  
Deadline to Apply: February 20

Please return this completed application to the Office of International Education at SCSU, Engleman Hall Room A-220, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT 06515 with your **\$1,300 deposit\*** (see instructions at page footer).

*\*A deposit is NOT a guarantee of acceptance and **non-refundable** unless the application is rejected by the Program Director. All decisions regarding admissions are made by the Program Director. The Program Director will review applications and render a decision regarding admission in writing within 14 days of receipt. If a student is accepted, the deposit is used to purchase program airfare and becomes non-refundable. The deposit will only be refunded if applicant is notified that they have not been admitted. **By submitting this application with my deposit, I acknowledge that I understand this deposit placement and refund policy.***

Program Director: Dr. Miranda Dunbar [DunbarM1@southernct.edu](mailto:DunbarM1@southernct.edu)

*Dr. Miranda Dunbar is a Professor of Biology and the Assistant Director of SCSU's Honors College. She is an expert in zoology and physiological ecology, and has nearly 20 years of experience working in nature and handling wildlife around the globe. The rainforests of Belize have been home to Dr. Dunbar's research and study abroad programs for the past 10 years; she looks forward to showing you the beauty of this extraordinary and biodiverse country!*

**Essential eligibility criteria:** Participants must be 18 years of age or older; be able to manage all personal care and mobility/ascend multiple flights of stairs/carry personal luggage/traverse uneven surfaces (curbstones, hiking trails, ancient roads, dirt paths) independently or with the assistance of a companion who accompanies the participant (please contact the Program Director if you have concerns about mobility, accommodations available with prior knowledge and planning); be able to comprehend, retain, and follow complex directions; be tolerant of the high heat and humidity characteristic of the tropics; have student records free from instances of misconduct; manage any food restrictions independently and find alternatives as needed; maintain an international phone plan (with data) and monitor WhatsApp for the duration of the program.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full legal name (**as it appears on your passport**):

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(First)

(Middle)

(Last)

DOB (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

SCSU ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s)/Minor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a tuition waiver recipient?  Yes  No

\*Deposit must be made online: [https://secure.touchnet.net/C21400\\_ustores/web/store\\_main.jsp?STOREID=9&SINGLESTORE=true](https://secure.touchnet.net/C21400_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=9&SINGLESTORE=true)  
SCSU-OIE staff would be happy to assist you with the online deposit (visit us in EN A - 220).

Anticipated Date of Graduation (mm/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_ Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment Status:  Full-time  Part-time  Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

University-level STEM courses previously taken (this will not affect your probability of acceptance into the program, but serves to inform the Program Director of your STEM background so they may prepare accordingly):

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number **(required)**: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport status:

I have a U.S. Passport that is valid for at least 6 months after our return. Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have applied for a U.S. Passport. Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

I have a Passport from another country that is valid for at least 6 months after our return  
(Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_).

### COURSE INFORMATION

Students accepted into the Belize study abroad program must register for either BIO 327 or HON 398 in the 2025 Summer semester. Select which course you will register for:

BIO 327 – Field Natural History in Belize (3 credits)

HON 398 – Study Abroad: Culture and Natural History of Belize (3 credits)

### REFERENCE

Provide one reference whom the Program Director may contact. This person must be a professor, previous or current employer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

A limited number of scholarships are available for participants in this course abroad program. To be considered eligible for a scholarship, applicants must submit a brief essay and a copy of their unofficial transcript and must be a matriculated full-time student. **Submit a 500-word essay answering the following 3-part question:**

Of the study abroad programs available at SCSU, why are you interested in Belize? How will participating in the Belize 2025 program benefit your educational, personal, and professional goals? What, specifically, will you contribute to the trip?

I have included a copy of my unofficial transcript.

## PROGRAM FEES

**Program fee: \$3,300**

**Deposit due with application (deadline to apply Feb 20): \$1,300**

**Second Payment due March 15: \$1,000**

**Final Payment due May 1: \$1,000**

### Program fee includes:

- Airfare, lodging, meals in Belize
- All domestic transportation in Belize
- Textbook and other educational materials
- Research permit, equipment, supplies
- Entrance fees to museums and cultural activities
- Wi-Fi, one load of laundry, and other basic amenities

**Program fee does not include:** SCSU's tuition and summer registration fee (\$2,085 - 3 credits for undergraduate), personal expenses, touring, snacks, medical and living expenses, or any additional expenses that alter the itinerary or arrangements

**Please Note:** The program fee also includes the cost of CISI insurance—a stand-alone insurance policy that provides comprehensive medical coverage internationally and meets SCSU's minimum requirements for emergency medical evacuation and repatriation coverage required for all students studying abroad. For more information about CISI insurance, please visit the Office of International Education or call (203) 392-6756 to schedule an appointment.

**Total cost = \$5,385 (program fee + tuition). Where available, financial aid can be applied to the overall cost of the program.**

For information regarding financial aid, contact the Financial Aid Office at (203) 392-5222 or [financialaid@southernct.edu](mailto:financialaid@southernct.edu).

## STUDENT BUDGET

To ensure that you have thoroughly considered the financial obligations you will incur by registering for this course abroad, please complete the below:

Program Fee: \$ 3,300.00

Tuition & Fees: \$ 2,085.00

Personal Costs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (souvenirs, snacks, free time, etc.)

**Total Costs:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how you plan to fund your course abroad experience given the costs listed above:

Personal Savings: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student Loan: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Costs:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(must be equal to or greater than the total above)

## ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**If accepted for enrollment in a Summer Abroad Program, the student is responsible for registering in the related courses and paying associated SCSU tuition and fees for at least the minimum number of credits required by the program.** Payment for tuition and fees must be made through the Bursar or Banner Web. By signing, the student assumes responsibility for managing their finances to account for payment of tuition and fees in addition to the Program Cost (detailed in both the brochure and the application).

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## MANDATORY HEALTH AND SAFETY AGREEMENT SESSION

In accordance with SCSU-OIE policy, all Study Abroad Participants are required to participate in a Mandatory Health and Safety Agreement Session prior to departure. Sessions will cover all insurance, health, risk, and liability issues associated with Education Abroad. The Health and Safety Session will take 30-60 minutes and will encompass all aspects of the Health and Safety Agreement process, including Medical Self-Assessment. Students who do not complete the Health and Safety Agreement process will not be permitted to travel.

**Students will need to register for one Student Health and Safety Agreement session specific to their program (Belize). All sessions will take place at least 30 days prior to departure.**

## OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CANCELLATION POLICY

Currently, all courses abroad for the academic year are expected to operate. Southern Connecticut State University's Office of International Education (SCSU-OIE) will monitor world events and make any change to this decision on an individual course basis any time between now and the departure dates.

If Southern Connecticut State University cancels an off-campus course, students will be refunded their deposits and all monies the university is *able* to recover from program providers. The SCSU-OIE office will negotiate with providers for the refunds. Although the SCSU-OIE office will negotiate with providers for refunds, the university cannot guarantee that all monies will be returned.

If a student withdraws from an off-campus course at any time between now and the departure date, the student will forfeit his/her deposit but will be refunded all other recoverable amounts. In the event the price of the trip rises more than 20%, the student may withdraw and receive both recoverable funds and deposit.

Students who must cancel their participation in a course abroad program must do so in writing to Dr. Erin Heidkamp, Director of the Office of International Education.

The Office of International Education will work to delay payment to providers on costs for course abroad programs as long as possible and request clearly stated refund policies from all providers for all programs prior to payments. Students who wish to purchase cancellation insurance should contact their insurance provider.

If Southern Connecticut State University cancels an off-campus course, the staff of SCSU-OIE will work with individual course abroad faculty members in adapting their course, when possible, for the Southern Connecticut State University campus. This is understood to be an emergency procedure in place as a result of unusual or unforeseen world events. If an off-campus course cannot be adapted to the on-campus setting, the faculty member will work to develop an alternative on-campus course for the students enrolled. If this is possible, efforts will be made to enroll students in existing on-campus courses.

I understand the material provided above regarding SCSU's International Programs Cancellation Policy, program costs, and dates. I also understand the faculty-led program deposit refund policy described on page 1 of this application.

Student Name (*print clearly*): \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**“AGREEMENT: “I certify that the information submitted on this application is correct. I agree to be subject to the academic and financial policies of SCSU. I am in good academic and disciplinary standing at my home college/university and agree to notify SCSU if my status changes. I have read the SCSU Summer Program in Belize brochure, understand the policies therein, and realize that they are binding.”**

**“I consent to allowing my photograph to be used in promotional material for the SCSU Summer Program in Belize in the future.”**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_